

Application No.: 10/670,145

Docket No.: TKHR6110-D1

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The drawings are objected to because several reference numbers in the drawings are not mentioned in the description. Claim 25 is objected to and replacing the phrase "carbide and aluminum silicate" with --carbide or aluminum silicate-- is suggested by the Examiner.

The Office Action rejected all presently-pending claims 17-32, 72, 73 and 75. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 17-26, 28-32, 72 and 75 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. 6,492,732) in view of Lou (U.S. 6,277,732). The Office Action also rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Lou and further in view of Spallek (U.S. 6,123,991).

Applicants have amended Fig. 1, 2E and 3A and claim 25 to overcome the objection and have amended claims 17, 72, and 75 to correct minor informalities. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 17-32, 72, 73 and 75 remain pending in the present application. No new matter adds through the amendments and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Objections to Drawings and Claims

Fig. 1, 2E and 3A are amended to cancel the reference numbers that are not described in the specification.

In claim 25, the phrase "...carbide and aluminum silicate." is replaced by --...carbide or aluminum silicate.-- as suggested.

It is believed that the above amendment has overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Rejections to Claims

Claims 17-26, 28-32, 72 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. 6,492,732) in view of Lou (U.S. 6,277,732). Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Lou and further in view of Spallek (U.S. 6,123,991).

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons that Lee (U.S. 6,492,732) does not qualify as a prior art.

The present application is a division of application No. 09/971,471 filed on October 5, 2001, now allowed. Application No. 09/971,471 claims the priority benefit of application No. 09/389,823 filed on September 3, 1999 and application No. 09/545,651 filed on April 10, 2000 (See the COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY filed with the present application on September 23, 2003), both predate the U.S. filing date of US 6,492,732 (May 4, 2001). Applicants state hereby that the claimed subject matter of the present application is fully supported by application No. 09/389,823 and application No. 09/545,651. Therefore, the presently claimed invention has priority dates of September 3, 1999 and April 10, 2000. For reasons discussed above, US 6,492,732 does not qualify as a prior art of the present application.

Withdrawal of US 6,492,732 as prior art is requested.

For at least the same reasons, the claim rejections based on U.S. 6,492,732 should be withdrawn.

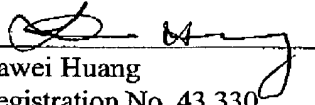
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 17-32, 72, 73 and 75 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 9/10/2004

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Respectfully submitted,
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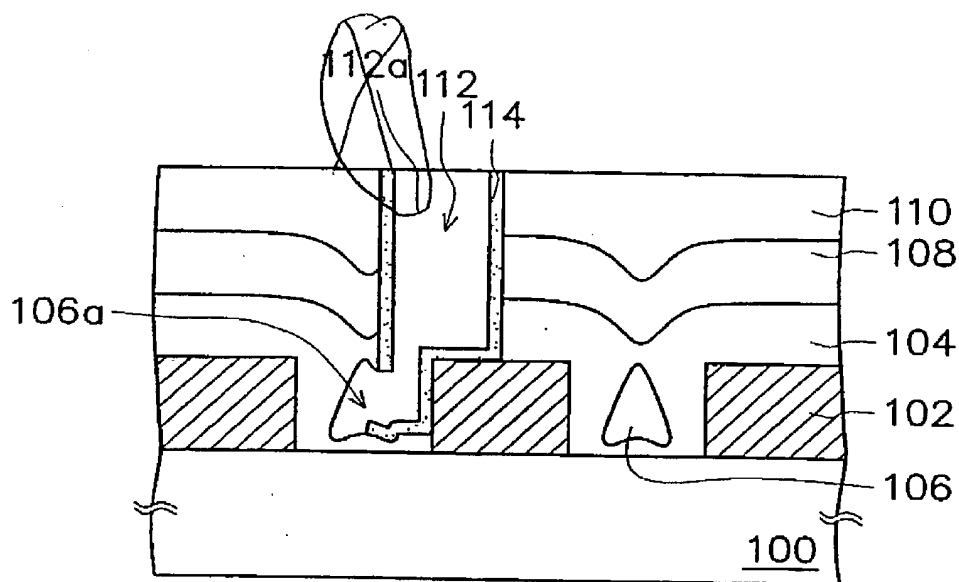


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

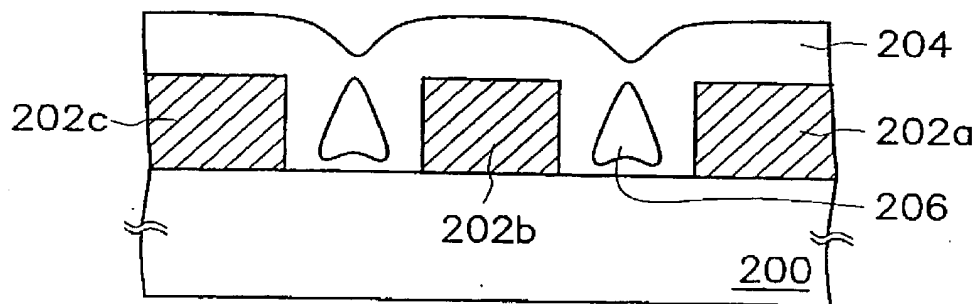


FIG. 2A

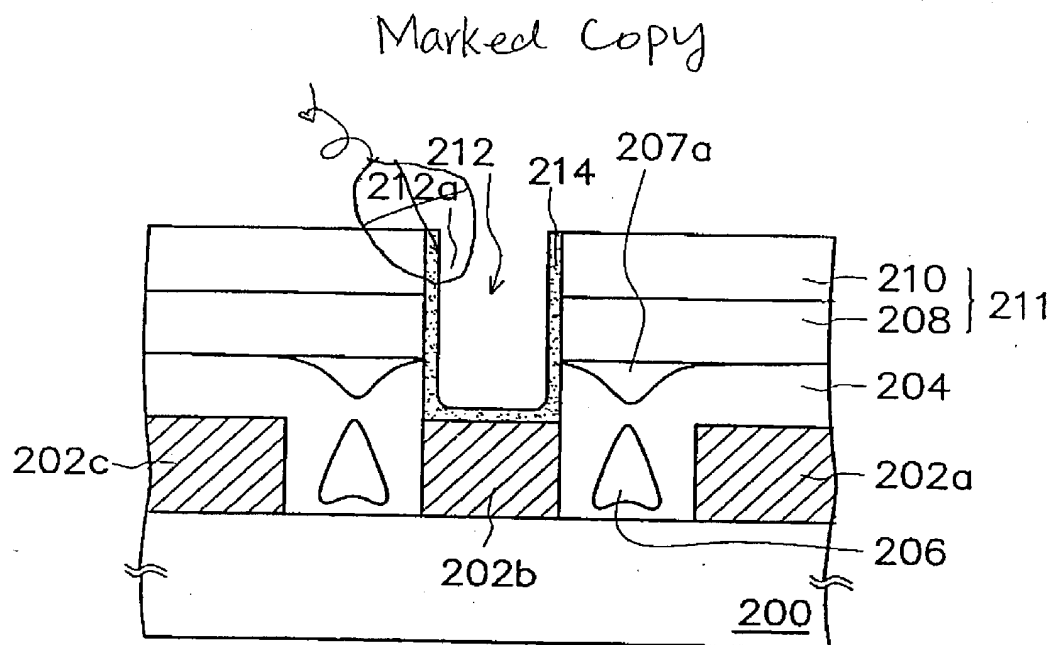


FIG. 2E

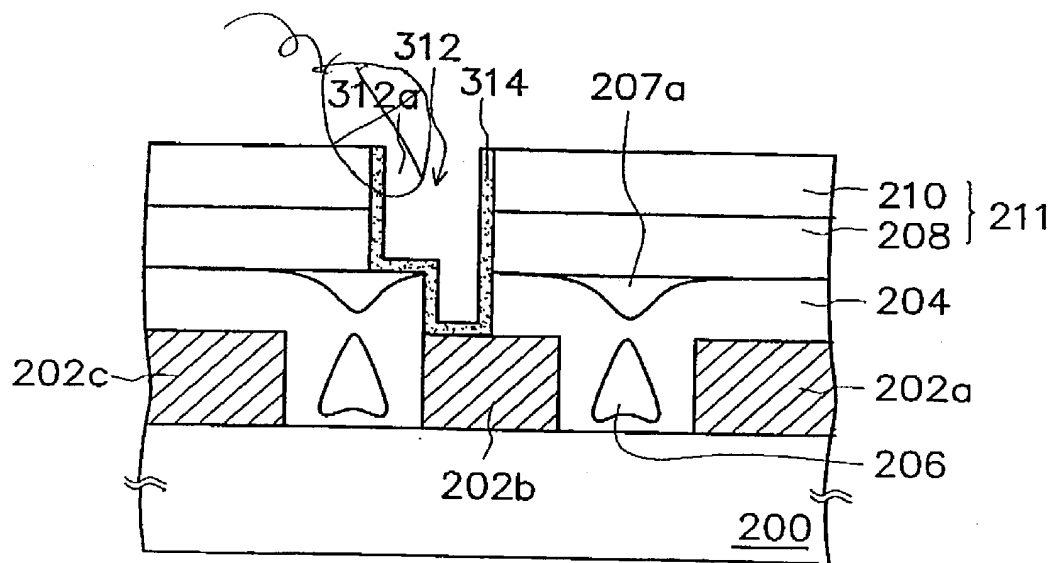


FIG. 3A

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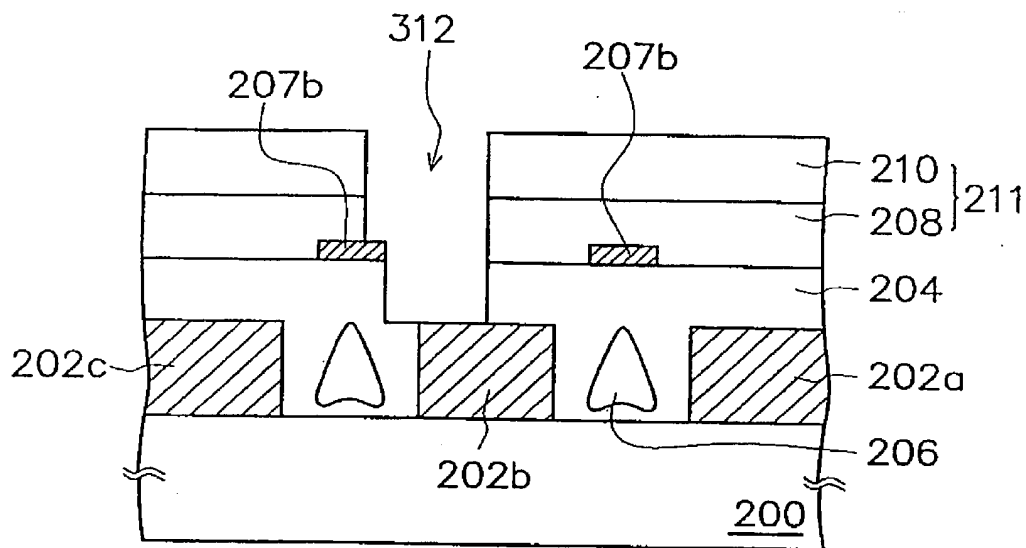


FIG. 3A 3B